



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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ICE ARRESTS MAN FOR ATTEMPTING TO IMPORT COCAINE

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents arrested 24-year-old Hector Luis Santana-Rivera yesterday for the alleged importation of more than 13 kilograms of cocaine into the United States in violation of Title 18, United States Code (USC) 545.

The Vega Alta, Puerto Rico resident arrived at the Port of Mayaguez from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic on board the Caribbean Express ferry. Santana-Rivera provided false information on his declaration to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspectors. Upon inspection of Santana-Rivera's vehicle, CBP inspectors found a package with approximately 13 kilograms of a powdery substance that when field-tested reacted positive for cocaine.

"ICE and our Department of Homeland Security partners in Puerto Rico are working together with state and local law enforcement agencies to detect and apprehend those who think that they can break the law and get away with it," said Lydia St. John-Mellado, acting special agent-in-charge of ICE in Puerto Rico. "Those who try to use Puerto Rico as a springboard to import illegal drugs into the United States should know that we will continue using our immigration and customs authorities to arrest them and present their cases for prosecution."

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District Court of Puerto Rico has accepted the case for prosecution. Santana-Rivera is in federal custody and was transferred to the Metropolitan Detention Center in Guaynabo where he is awaiting his initial appearance before a U.S. Magistrate.

The public is reminded that a criminal complaint contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is innocent and is entitled to a fair trial and the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.

